

U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Western District of New York

Further inquiries: (716) 843-5814

138 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14202

PRESS RELEASE

May 10, 2004

RE: UNITED STATES v. THOMAS P. STANTON

United States Attorney Michael A. Battle announced that Thomas P. Stanton, 66, of Buffalo, New York, was arrested on May 7, 2004, and charged in a complaint with using the internet in an attempt to persuade and entice a minor to engage in unlawful sexual activity. Stanton entered a plea of not guilty last Friday before Magistrate Judge Leslie G. Foschio.

Stanton's arrest resulted from an undercover investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Peter J. Ahearn, and the Sex Offense Squad of the Buffalo Police Department. If convicted, Stanton would face a mandatory minimum sentence of 5 years imprisonment and a maximum penalty of 30 years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Marie P. Grisanti said the complaint accuses the defendant of attempting, after several Internet communications, to meet a 14-year-old boy at the

defendant's residence in order to engage in sexual activity. The Internet conversations, however, were allegedly between Stanton and an undercover investigator who assumed the identity of a 14-year-old. Stanton is scheduled to appear again before Judge Foschio on May 20, 2004, at 2:30 p.m. for a preliminary hearing.

* * *